

and Belgium has been received. The report shows the splendid work accomplished by the special committee set up by the Westminster Council. An offer has also been made by the hon. lay secretary, Mr. W. P. Mara, to assist New Zealand soldiers in England by receiving correspondence, and despatching the same as required. Mr. Mara's offer has been made as widely known as possible through the diocesan secretaries, camp chaplains, and the columns of the *N.Z. Tablet*. The question of co-operating with the newly-formed Press Bureau at Westminster will be brought before your council. Copies of the *Catholic Federationist*, the organ of the Salford (England) Diocesan Federation, have been received, and are gratefully acknowledged.

Australia.—Cordial relations continue to exist between the N.Z.C.F. and the Australian Federations. Publications, etc., are exchanged, and recently the N.S.W. Federation has been supplied with a quantity of information in regard to the Acts and Regulations in vogue in connection with hospital control in New Zealand. This was asked for in view of proposed legislation in that State, and a recent letter of thanks shows that it was highly appreciated.

Military Affairs and Field Service Fund. The camps: The institutes at the camps Trentham and Featherston are now under the control of the Hierarchy, but the executive has taken an active interest in the work done by the chaplains. The Trentham hall has recently been lined and renovated, and heating stoves installed, at a cost of about £270, borne by the Field Service Fund. The sum of £150 from the money subscribed in the Christchurch diocese was specially asked to be expended on this work. This amount was augmented by £120 as stated. At the request of the Wellington Diocesan Council and of Timaru a grant of £55 was made for repairs and comforts for Featherston hall. Ten pounds was given to the camp entertainment fund. It is probable that the question of erecting a small hall at the now permanent camp at Tauherikikau will have to be considered. The other religious bodies have already comfortable quarters for their adherents.

H.M. Transports.—Each transport leaving with a Reinforcement has been supplied with a parcel of rosaries, medals, and hymn-cards for the use of the men on board. In the case of each chaplain leaving with a Reinforcement, £10 has been given for use on the men under his charge, and where required a grant has also been made for a field altar. Chaplains leaving with hospital ships each receive a grant of £50. In response to the request of the late Chaplain-Major McMenamin, the sum of £300 was cabled in May last to the account of the N.Z. chaplains in England, and a letter expressing heartfelt thanks was received from Father McMenamin. The executive desires to express its deep sorrow at the loss of this brave soldier and good priest. The executive also desires to place on record its very high appreciation of the splendid services rendered to our soldiers by the Catholic chaplains in the field, hospitals, and camps. The welfare of the men in Egypt has not been overlooked, and a grant has been forwarded to the N.Z. chaplain there, the Rev. Father Alex. McDonald.

Roll of Honor.—Efforts have been made from time to time to obtain a complete list of the Catholic men with the Expeditionary Force without avail. The Defence Department is unable to allow the records to be searched by the Federation officers until the close of the war, and when it is considered that the files of over a hundred thousand men would need to be handled the magnitude of the task is realised. Your executive now directs attention to a remit which is designed to solve the problem, and trusts that favorable consideration may be accorded the suggestions therein contained. The executive, and every member of the Federation, join in offering to the bereaved parents of those officers and men who have fallen in action their deepest sympathy and condolence.

Organisation.—No direct organising work has been done from head office during the past term, but diocesan councils have been informed that in the event of

their members being unable to visit and organise the various parishes the services of the Dominion organiser will be placed at their disposal on application. Your executive would like to stress the fact that the organisation of branches does not end with the collection of subscriptions, however numerous, for the year, and that the country branches should constantly be made acquainted with the various activities carried on by the Federation.

Medical Inspection.—In reply to a question in the House the Hon. Minister of Education recently stated that it was his desire and intention to see that every child in the Dominion shall have the benefit of medical inspection. As this is a matter for which the Federation has striven for some time past, it is to be hoped that the Minister's statement will be carried out in its entirety, so that our children will have the same opportunity of medical inspection as the more favored children in the State schools.

Swimming Capitation.—New regulations have been gazetted whereby Catholic schools are placed on the same footing in the matter of swimming classes as in cookery and woodwork classes, and can earn capitation therefor. This is a step in the right direction, and will, we hope, be availed of by many of our schools.

Women's Hostels.—Arrangements have been made with the Railway Department whereby the various Catholic hostels for women may be advertised at the principal railway stations in order to apprise Catholic women travelling of safe places to stay while on their journey. Your executive desires to place on record its deep appreciation of the good work being done for Catholic women and girls compelled to live away from home and those travelling by the four excellent hostels now open.

Police Court Charge Sheets.—The question of the alteration in police court charge sheets which will eliminate the column stating the alleged religious denomination of persons charged with offences, has been the subject of much correspondence with the Government. As a result, enquiry has been instituted as to the practice in vogue in Australia and the United Kingdom in this regard, and on receipt of replies a decision will be arrived at by the Minister of Internal Affairs. The inaccuracy of these returns is generally recognised by the authorities, and your executive trusts that the amendment in question will be made.

Conclusion.—In conclusion your executive tenders its heartiest thanks to the officials, members, and executives of the diocesan councils for their loyal and whole-hearted efforts in the cause of Federation during the past term. The largely increased membership at the end of the financial year bears testimony to the excellent work carried out in the various dioceses. The executive trusts that ere long each of the diocesan councils may be able to show the happy and satisfactory result of having a large and prosperous branch in every parish under its jurisdiction.

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